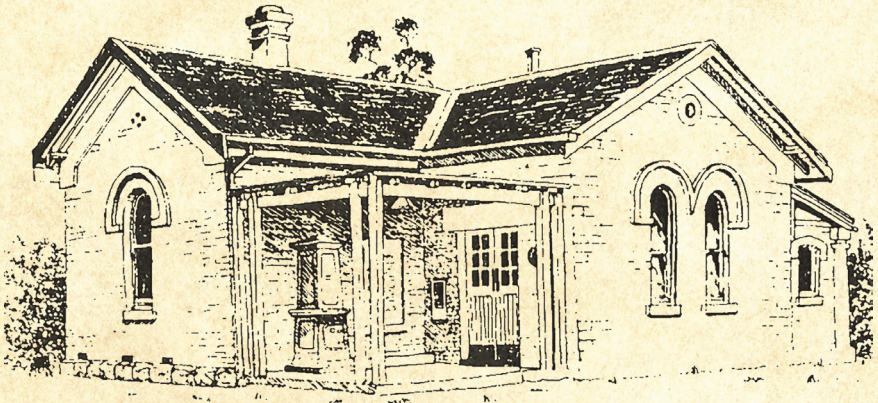


# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Corner Main Street and Esplanade, Mornington 3931

## NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Newsletter No. 288



# President's Report

On behalf of the committee may I wish you all a Happy New Year as we spare a thought for those who have had to go through the bush fires.

Once again a big thanks to those who gave up their time to make sure the Museum was open over the Christmas/New Year week which always brings in many visitors. And again to those of you who worked on Australia Day, making sure the Museum was open for business and Janet and Joy took seventeen interested people on an hour and half historic walk. Many many thanks as I was unable to share any of this.

I would urge you to join Libby on the bus trip to Emerald later this month. It would be interesting to compare Emerald's apple orcharding with that on the Mornington Peninsula. It was such an important industry which is now not even half of what it was. Emerald is a beautiful area to visit anyway.

Our map cabinet has been sorted, the maps scanned and catalogued onto the computer. Thanks to Val and Edna and Murray for doing the scanning. A much needed task to be undertaken.

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***PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT VENUES FOR OUR FEBRUARY AND APRIL COFFEE MORNINGS.***

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## Helen Broad History Prize

In our last newsletter we had just given the Prize to Padua student, Madeleine Jamieson.

Other recipients were:

- Peninsula Grammar - Thea Skogstad,
- Mornington Secondary College - Kurin Lelean and
- Balcombe Grammar - Hanna Di Stefano

We congratulate them all and hope they will continue to enjoy studying history.

*Diane White*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

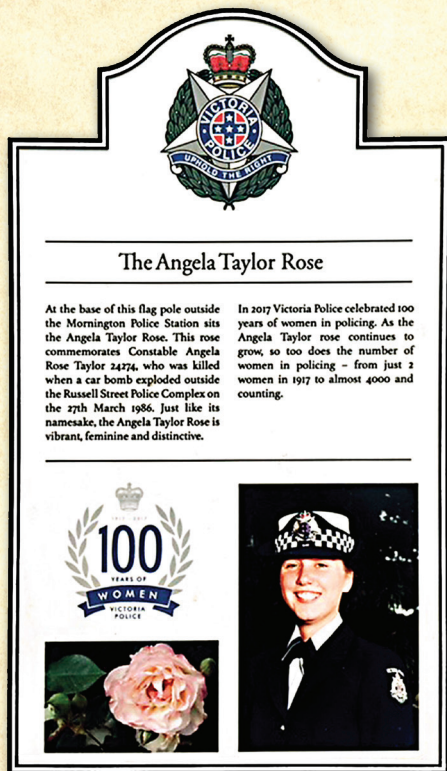
Could you possibly give the Society one Sunday afternoon every two or three months? You would be on duty with an experienced committee member always. Please ring David on 0418 752 093

## Plaque Unveiling

A large number of people gathered at Mornington Police Station in November for the unveiling of a plaque honouring Constable Angela Rose Taylor, the 21 year old police-woman killed in the Russell Street bombing in 1986.

The plaque is situated beside the Angela Taylor rose and the flagpole where it was planted by retired Sergeant Neil Fortune in 2002. The rose was named after Angela and has been nurtured by Mornington Police Officers since then. It was a most moving ceremony and adds significance to the little rose bush. Please take a minute to stop and read the plaque, think of Angela and admire the rose which has managed to survive despite those winds that blow up from the bay.

*Libby Gillingham*



### FOR SALE - Please contact the Museum:

#### **FIFTEEN YOUNG MEN**

*by Paul Kennedy* - Published by Penguin Random House \$35

#### **THE WOLFDENE STORY -**

**The Families and Functions of a Mornington Historic House**

*by Joy Cullen* \$15

#### **THE NAMES ON THE MORNINGTON HONOUR ROLL**

**Who were they?** *By Val Wilson* \$20

#### **A JOURNEY ALONG BALCOMBE CREEK** *by Winty Calder* \$45

#### **READY AND WILLING, WE**

**STRIVE TO SAVE - The story of the Mornington Fire Brigade 1917-2017**

*by Colin Fisher* \$20

#### **OUR BOYS AT THE FRONT - from the pages of *The Peninsula Post*.**

This award winning book including DVD disc on World War 1 is now reduced to \$30

#### **WORLD WAR 1 POEMS**

Selected from *The Peninsula Post* \$15

#### **REV GEORGE COX - A MAN OF MANY PARTS** *by Joy Cullen*

\$15.00 per copy plus postage.

# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT

## Dates for You

Website: <http://morningtondistricthistory.org.au>

Foll

*Visitors warn*

### **TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 10.30am - \$10**

#### **BALUK ARTS CENTRE 6 Bruce Street Mornington**

Continuing with our further understanding of our First Peoples, we will be given a talk about the current exhibition they are holding and then be shown how to make a feather head piece.

Afterwards we could go to the next street for coffee or an early lunch at Commonfolk Coffee Company, 16 Progress Street, Mornington.

### **WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 9.30am - \$45**

#### **BUS TRIP - Leaving from bus stop opposite Ross Street to NOBELIUS MUSEUM at Emerald Lake**

Cost includes bus trip, museum entrance and morning tea on arrival. There is a choice of restaurant, cafe or bring a picnic. Contact Libby 0409 149 089 See more details overleaf.

### **TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 10.30am - \$5**

#### **COFFEE MORNING Mornington Fire Brigade Rooms**

#### **THE BEACH BOXES OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA.**

Our Vicky will give us a talk on the famous beach boxes on our beaches.

### **TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 10.00am - \$5**

#### **COFFEE MORNING @ Fossil Beach, Mt. Martha**

We will visit the ruins of the old cement works to see what Ian Stevenson and his group has done with the Council to preserve what is left and to educate any visitors to the site.

Afterwards we can go to the Dava for coffee and/or lunch. Meet at the foreshore car park between Gleneagles and Bentons Road.

# MORNINGTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## our Diary 2020

Follow us on Facebook    Museum Phone (03) 5976 3203

*only welcomed*

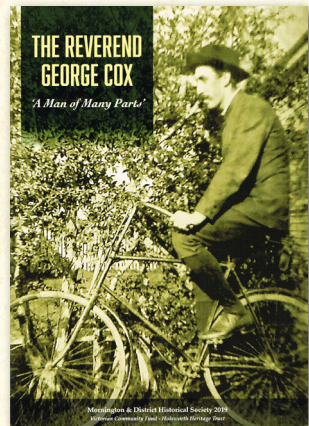
**TUESDAY 12TH MAY 10.30am - \$5**

**COFFEE MORNING at Mornington Fire Brigade Rooms**

Robert Spicer was a Navy diver during the Vietnam War.



**Pic of Joy with Rev. Cox's grandson  
at launch of book**



**FOR SALE**

**Rev George Cox -  
A Man of Many Parts  
by Joy Cullen**

\$15.00 per copy plus  
postage. Available from the  
Old Post Office Museum.

# Lady Tallis and the Cyclorama Opportunity Shop

Did you know that Lady Tallis of Beleura, in Mornington, is credited by historian Robyn Annear\* with introducing the term 'opportunity shop' to Australia in 1925? Amelia Young, known as Millie, was a comic and light opera singer when she married George Tallis of the theatrical company, J.C. Williamson, in 1898. In 1916 they purchased Beleura as a holiday home. Millie and George had four children, the youngest of whom, Jack Morton (John), inherited Beleura after his father's death in 1948, with the agreement of his siblings. Today, Beleura House and Garden is his legacy to the people of Victoria.



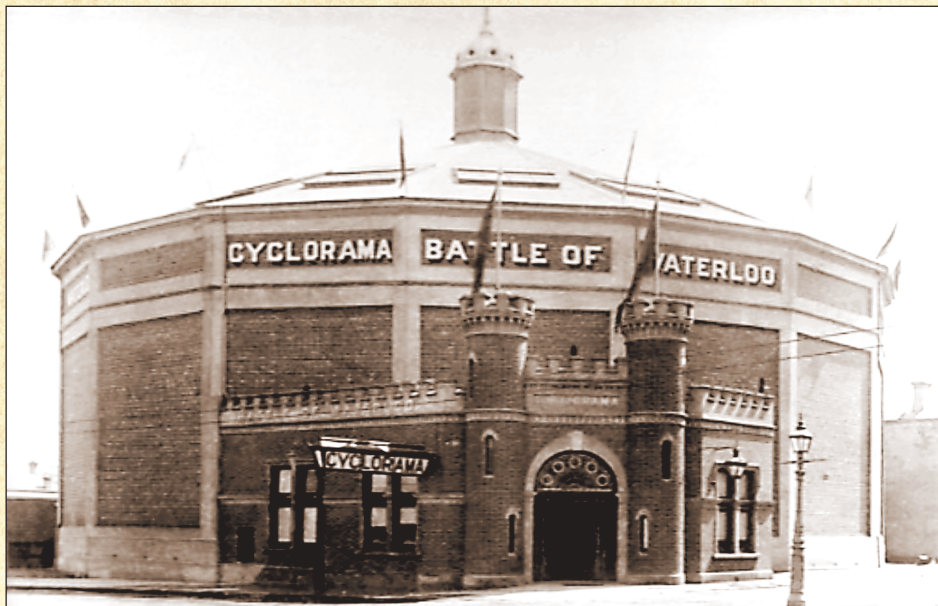
Lady M. Tallis 1925

In 1922 George Tallis, by then the noted impresario of J.C. Williamson Ltd, was knighted "as head of the theatrical profession in Australia and in recognition of the profession's constant efforts in the cause of charity". Lady Tallis, of course, was closely involved in such charitable causes, and as a doyenne of Melbourne society she could count on many well-connected ladies to assist her. The Opportunity Shop scheme to raise funds for St Vincent's Hospital proposed to locate the shop at the old Cyclorama in Victoria Parade, near St Vincent's. The Cyclorama, a circular building that had been erected in 1889 to display panoramic images of important events such as the Battle of Waterloo and the Eureka Stockade, became obsolete as cinema entertainment increased. Lady Tallis promoted her scheme to sell superfluous articles at bargain prices through her letters to numerous newspapers, including *The Argus*, *The Herald* and *The Advocate*, signing her name in egalitarian fashion, as Millie Tallis. The scheme received the support of the Lord Mayor, and goods could be donated at Town Halls and Railway Stations, or direct to the Cyclorama.

Millie Tallis's upbeat 'opportunity shop' contrasted with contemporary charities that involved one-off events such as jumble sales. Sir George and Lady Tallis had travelled to Europe and the United States earlier in 1925 and it is possible that Millie adapted her term from the 'opportunity bags' distributed by Goodwill Stores throughout the States at that time. In October 1925, 'Melbourne Talk', in Perth's Western Mail, proclaimed, "Lady Tallis's Opportunity Shop is a bright idea and should catch on." 'Catch on' it did. The Cyclorama Opportunity Shop was licensed to operate for three months only but its success set the scene for subsequent use of the term. During 1926 opportunity shops opened in Melbourne to assist a variety of agencies and causes - the YWCA Hostel, St Vincent de Paul, Queen Victoria Hospital for Women; then spread to regional towns and interstate, evolving over time as the ubiquitous Vinnies and Salvos, with numerous charities also adopting the term. Lady Tallis became a Life Governor of St Vincent's Hospital for her philanthropic work for the hospital. Today in Mornington, the home of many Op Shops, we should congratulate Millie Tallis for her initiative.

*\* Robyn Annear's recent book Nothing New: The History of Second Hand is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the predecessors of Op Shops.*

*Joy Cullen*



**Cyclorama and Waterloo c1900**

# Bus Trip Wednesday 26th February.

## Emerald Museum And Nobelius Heritage Park.

The 4.5 hectare heritage site was part of the world famous Nobelius Nursery started in 1886 by Swedish immigrant Carl Axel Nobelius.

Bus will leave from Main St (opposite Ross St and D.O.C.) at 9.30am. Morning tea on arrival at the museum. There are nearby cafes and a hotel for lunch or bring your own picnic to have in the park.

Bus will return to Mornington by 5pm.

Cost \$45. Includes bus, entry to museum and morning tea.

Please contact Libby Gillingham 0409 149 089 to book your ticket ASAP.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to Hazel Stead and Frank Cattell  
We hope you enjoy your membership with us.

*Thanks to the Mornington Peninsula Shire for their support.*

Mornington & District Historical Society Inc. A00041916W  
ABN 7515 1057 105 - PO Box 71 Mornington 3931  
Museum: Corner Main Street and Esplanade  
Open 1.30 - 4.30 Sundays or by appointment

Donations to the Historical Society of \$2 or more are tax deductible